

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140139

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ET

SUBJECT: F-5E AIRCRAFT FOR ETHIOPIA

1. DEPARTMENT AND DOD HAVE AGREED TO THE SALE OF 16 F5E/RF AIRCRAFT TO ETHIOPIA, SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. UNDER SECT 36 (B) OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT, ALL PROPOSED LOA'S VALUED AT DOLS 25 MILLION OR MORE MUST BE REPORTED TO CONGRESS WHICH THEN HAS 20 CALENDAR DAYS IN WHICH TO DISAPPROVE SALE BY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION. ONE OF THE PRIMARY PROBLEMS IN REACHING THIS DECISION WAS THE WORLDWIDE SHORTAGE OF AGE AND SPARE PARTS. WE PLAN
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TO PROVIDE THE AIRCRAFT ON THE FOLLOWING BASIS: EIGHT F5ES

TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM PRODUCTION AT TWO PER MONTH BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER 75; FIVE F5E'S BEGINNING 4TH QUARTER CY 77, AND THREE RF5E'S AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER (WE ARE UNCERTAIN OF TIME NEEDED FOR RECON CONE TO BE BUILT TO ETHIOPIAN SPECIFICATIONS). TOTAL PACKAGE FOR 16 AIRCRAFT ON FMS CASH BASIS IS ESTIMATED TO COST ABOUT DOLS 60-65 MILLION (FIGURES TO BE USED FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY) PLUS AN UNKNOWN AMOUNT FOR DEVELOPMENT COSTS OF THE RECON CONE. WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT THIS WILL PROVIDE THE EAF WITH ONLY A VERY LIMITED CAPABILITY UNTIL MID 1977. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT THE NOVEMBER 75 DATE IS THE

EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME FOR FACTORY ROLL-OUT OF THESE NEW AIRCRAFT. THIS SCHEDULE CONFORMS REALISTICALLY TO TIME REQUIRED TO GET ETHIOPIAN PILOTS, CREWS, AND THEIR LOGISTICS SYSTEM READY TO RECEIVE THE AIRCRAFT. CONUS PILOT TRAINING WILL TAKE SIX MONTHS AND MAINTENANCE TRAINING THREE MONTHS. THIS ASSUMES THAT STUDENTS ARE QUALIFIED AND LANGUAGE CAPABLE.

2. THIS PROPOSAL IS BEST AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVE AND IS CONSISTENT WITH THE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TRAINING LEAD-TIMES. AIRCRAFT WILL BE TAKEN FROM NEW PRODUCTION, THEREBY AVOIDING PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT BE ASSOCIATED WITH USED OR RECONDITIONED AIRCRAFT, EVEN IF THEY WERE AVAILABLE.

SINCE TRAINING LEAD TIME IS A CONTROLLING FACTOR, WE RECOMMEND THAT MAAG COORDINATE WITH ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE SELECTION OF QUALIFIED F-5A/B PILOT AND TECHNICAL STUDENTS FOR CONUS F-5 TRAINING TO ENABLE INITIATION OF TRAINING ASAP FOLLOWING SIGNATURE OF LOA.

3. SUGGEST APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIALS IN ADDIS INFORM MOD AND MOFA OF THE ABOVE PROPOSAL. AT THAT TIME, YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN SECT 36 (B) REQUIREMENT CITED PARA 1 ABOVE. SUBJECT TO EPMG ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE, USAF SURVEY TEAM WILL ARRIVE ETHIOPIA LATE JUNE TO ASSESS SUPPORT AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS. THIS WILL FACILITATE PREPARATION OF A LOA. ALTHOUGH TIME REQUIRED FOR TRAINING MAY NOT BE FULLY UNDERSTOOD BY MOFA, THE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY ARE AWARE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS REQUIREMENT.

4. IN VIEW OF THIS TRANSACTION, WE ARE AUTHORIZING CASH SALES TO EPMG OF U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN EXCESS OF THE DOLS 53 MILLION PREVIOUSLY APPROVED. FYI: WHILE A CASH CEILING NO LONGER APPLIES, DELIVERIES OF U.S. EQUIPMENT TO ETHIOPIA WILL CONTINUE TO BE REVIEWED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AT EACH STAGE OF IMPLEMENTATION IN LIGHT OF

EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES. END FYI

5. METHOD AND COST OF DELIVERY TO BE SUBJECT OF SEPTTEL.
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